



SEAFORD UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Adele V. Pecora, Superintendent of Schools

August 13, 2024

Dear Seaford Families,

I hope that you are enjoying your summer with family and friends. Welcome back to another exciting school year!

This summer has been a busy time. As you enter the buildings, there will be several new faces. I greatly appreciate the tremendous work done by our Human Resources Office. Dr. Sheena Jacob and Ms. Lori Umano are commended for their determination to recruit and hire amazing new faculty and staff. This work could not have been done without parents, teachers and administrators who volunteered to serve on interview committees. I am grateful for the school administrators and clerical teams who have been preparing for the opening of our schools on September 3, 2024. Many of our current initiatives are an extension of the outstanding work that we began over the last several years. We will continue to emphasize the Seaford Scholars Profile which reinforces effective learning behaviors and habits; it supports our students to become successful learners and the leaders of today and tomorrow. A new area of focus is the Viking POPS (Points of Pride Snapshots) video series. Throughout the year, I will send you a link to a video highlighting the wonderful work done by students, faculty and staff. The first edition was released at the end of June. Click here to view it: [VIKING POPS!](#). We plan to release the second video, which will showcase all the new facilities enhancements, at the end of August.

The work done by our facilities department this summer is unprecedented. Our custodial/buildings and grounds staff have done an outstanding job managing elaborate construction projects while preparing the schools for September. Additional gratitude is extended to Mr. Costa, our Director of Facilities, and Mr. Andrew Casale, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations, for supervising construction projects. Seaford High School looks fantastic with the new Junior/Senior Cafeteria and Café as well as the renovated auditorium. A tremendous addition to our sports complex is the new comfort station and athletic pathway. This project is an endorsement of Seaford Pride and the commitment of our community to provide our students with a modern and competitive campus that enhances opportunities for all students. You are cordially invited to attend the official ribbon cutting ceremony that will take place on August 26th, at 5:30 p.m. The new libraries at the Harbor and Manor schools are gorgeous and will become hubs of exploration for our young learners. The Harbor has also received new blacktop areas in the rear of the school; students will certainly enjoy this area at recess. Lastly, the Seaford Middle School gym floor has been completely refurbished and looks beautiful. Seaford Pride is alive and well on our campuses!

With the retirement of Ms. Emmerich, Mr. Smith, and Ms. Stringer, building leadership is comprised of some familiar and new faces. Congratulations to Dr. Raphael Morey, former Assistant Principal of Seaford High School, who will be the Principal of Seaford Middle School. Ms. Melanie Judson will fill the assistant principal vacancy at the high school. She is an experienced assistant principal coming from Brooklyn High School for Law and Technology. It is also our pleasure to announce that Ms. Joann Krudis, an administrator with extensive experience in the Far Rockaway School District, is the new Manor School Principal. She has already hosted a wonderful dance party to meet with faculty, students, and parents. Similarly, Ms. Tara Savage, Harbor Assistant Principal, has also engaged with the Harbor Community through a few fun-filled activities. Ms. Savage comes to us having been the Assistant Principal at the Stewart Manor School in Elmont. We appreciate their service to the district and wish Ms. Emmerich, Mr. Smith, and Ms. Stringer all the best in their retirements.

1600 Washington Avenue Seaford, New York 11783
(516) 592-4001

The Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services curriculum areas will be led by Ms. Mary Catherine Culella-Sun, Executive Director for Student Support Services. New to our district are the assistant directors: Dr. Dana Battaglia who will be supporting elementary special education and Ms. Jamie Hermel who will focus on secondary education. Dr. Battaglia is a Speech and Language Pathologist; she was also a Department Chairperson and Faculty Member at Adelphi University. Ms. Hermel was a Pupil Personnel Services Curriculum Associate in the Jericho School District. Mr. Patrick Kennedy, former music teacher in the Great Neck School District, was also appointed in the spring and is our Curriculum Coordinator for Fine and Applied Arts. He will be supervising the Music, Art, Family & Consumer Science, Business and Technology Departments.

Maintaining exceptional instructional experiences for all students is a district objective. This year, we will be distributing new laptops to all tenth and eleventh grade students. Fourth grade classrooms will also have new devices. There has also been an emphasis on curricula. Dr. Alison Offerman-Celentano has been leading our summer work. Our teachers and administrators worked on 17 curriculum projects; some of these include augmenting our LIFT program, developing new computer science courses for our 6th and 7th grade students, and expanding research opportunities at the high school, just to name a few. We have also advanced the technological experiences in our LIFT program with green screens and 3-D printers in each of our elementary libraries. Additionally, our new middle school computer science courses will be equipped with a 3-D printer in each class to infuse coding and the latest technology. Our curriculum team is expanding our Project Lead the Way offerings by adding a PLTW Introduction to Computer Science course at the high school and Algebra 1 Advantage, which consists of projects and problem-based modules designed to supplement and enhance the Algebra 1 course as well as the classes leading up to this introductory high school class.

Strong communication continues to be a goal of the Board of Education and Administration. We are excited to offer ParentSquare, a new communication platform for all educators and families. Our administrators and teachers will have been trained before the start of school, and we will post instructional resources for our families on our website. Additionally, we will hold in-person informational sessions at the high school on September 3rd and during our Back-to-School Nights at the middle school and elementary school buildings.

As always, the safety of our students and staff remains a top priority. Every year the district budgets for security projects. This year, we will be upgrading camera software and some of our security cameras. There have also been enhancements to each building's intrusion/burglar alarms. Most importantly, we hired additional security guards to ensure that we are fully staffed throughout the school year. Our security team has a wonderful relationship with local law enforcement. Consistently, Nassau County Police have stated that locked doors and the wearing of ID badges is critical in securing the perimeters of our schools. Please know that the wearing of identification badges by students and staff will be enforced. Ensuring a safe and secure learning environment continues to be our overarching goal.

We are very excited to start the school year and look forward to seeing our students and families. Enjoy the remaining days of summer and ... **Go Vikings!**

Yours in Seaford Pride,



Adele V. Pecora, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

AVP:ts